

Remarks

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants note claims 6-8 were indicated as allowable in the first Office Action issued on October 13, 2006 and in the Final Office Action issued March 15, 2007. Accordingly, it seems strange that the examiner after having already examining and allowing the claims has just now decided they are "non-statutory". Although Applicants believe the claims are statutory as originally presented, applicants have decided to amend the claims in an effort to expedite prosecution. Applicants have therefore added the element of an outputting device that outputs image data according to the defined function, thereby making it absolutely clear that the claimed invention produces a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 6-8 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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